REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this Amendment, Applicants have more-particularly claimed Applicants' invention in new independent claim 5. As now more-particularly claimed, the method comprises contouring a surface of the blade by a molded cathode, and simultaneously with the contouring step, producing a structure on the surface of the blade by the molded cathode. The structure on the surface of the blade is a negative of a structure on the molded cathode.

Thus, in Applicants' invention, as disclosed at least at para. 0009 of Applicants' specification, with the inventive molded cathode, which includes a structure on the surface of the molded cathode, it is possible to contour the surface of the blade and at the same time provide the blade with a structure on the surface of the blade. This structure can serve the purpose of minimizing the boundary layer during operation of the blade. As further disclosed at para. 0010, with the inventive method, only a single manufacturing step is required, which eliminates the separate step in the prior art for surface structuring.

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Mielke nor Lamphere disclose the features of new independent claim 5 where simultaneously with a contouring step, a structure is produced on the surface of the blade by a structure on a molded cathode, where the structure produced on the surface of the blade is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode. In Mielke and Lamphere, all that is disclosed is contouring of a blade.

In Mielke, blades 12a (sample electrodes) are merely lowered into blank electrode 13. The electrodes are then moved relative to each other. Thus, at most, Mielke discloses contouring of a surface of a blade 12a. Mielke provides no disclosure for simultaneously with a contouring step, producing a structure on the surface of the blade by a structure on a molded cathode, where the structure produced on the surface of the blade is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode. Applicants respectfully submit that even if Mielke can be interpreted to disclose a "molded cathode", any "molded cathode" of Mielke does not contain a structure on the molded cathode that produces a structure on the surface of the blade that is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode. Any "molded cathode" in Mielke solely contours the surface of the blades 12a and, even if the

contoured blade can in any way be considered to be a "negative" of the molded cathode, this still does not disclose producing a structure on the surface of the blade by a structure on a molded cathode, where the structure produced on the surface of the blade is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode.

With respect to Lamphere, Lamphere only discloses two pairs of electrode tools 26a,b and 28a,b for machining two rows of blades, respectively. The tools 26, 28 only have a "conventional configuration" (para. 0028) and the tools and blades are moved relative to each other to machine each blade (para. 0030). Thus, at most, Lamphere also only discloses contouring of a surface of a blade. Like Mielke, Lamphere provides no disclosure for simultaneously with a contouring step, producing a structure on the surface of the blade by a structure on a molded cathode, where the structure produced on the surface of the blade is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode. As also with Mielke, Applicants respectfully submit that even if Lamphere can be interpreted to disclose a "molded cathode", any "molded cathode" of Lamphere only includes a "conventional configuration", and thus, does not contain a structure on the molded cathode that produces a structure on the surface of the blade that is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode. Any "molded cathode" in Lamphere solely contours the surface of the blade and, even if the contoured blade can in any way be considered to be a "negative" of the molded cathode, this still does not disclose producing a structure on the surface of the blade by a structure on a molded cathode, where the structure produced on the surface of the blade is a negative of the structure on the molded cathode.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 5 is allowable over both Mielke and Lamphere for at least these reasons. Applicants also respectfully submit that new independent apparatus claim 7 is also allowable over Mielke and Lamphere. Applicants respectfully request examination of new apparatus claim 7 since it includes the same inventive molded cathode of method claim 5.

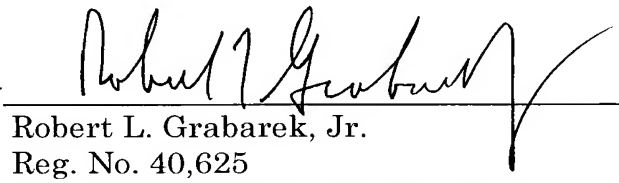
Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the

application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any such fee, any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 011235.57691US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: December 15, 2010 By 

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